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Governor Appoints Connie Hutchison as Secretary of Higher Educational Aids Board

Governor Jim Doyle announced today the appointment of Connie Hutchison of McFarland as Executive Secretary of the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). The Higher Educational Aids Board is responsible for the management and oversight of the state's student financial aid system for Wisconsin residents attending institutions of higher education.

Hutchison currently serves as a member and clerk of the McFarland School Board. She has formerly worked as an elementary and middle school teacher, interim high school principal, and consultant and organizer for the Wisconsin Education Association Council. She has also served as a project assistant with UW-Madison's Department of Educational Administration.

"Connie's background in education, including her management and board experiences, make her uniquely qualified for this position," Governor Doyle said. "She has a great appreciation for and commitment to Wisconsin's higher education system, and has exhibited a lifelong dedication to teaching and learning. I am confident that she will perform well as HEAB's Executive Secretary."

HEAB administers student financial aid, including: a total of 14 scholarship, grant and loan programs; the Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement; a contract for dental education services; and the contracts associated with the Medical College of Wisconsin. The board's mission is to ensure that all students be provided equal access and diversity in obtaining a higher education and to make certain the funds for each program are distributed in a fair, equitable, and timely manner. The Executive Secretary makes policy recommendations to the Board, carries out policy directives from the Governor, Legislature and Board, and is responsible for initiating and carrying out all administrative direction and responsibilities of the agency.

Hutchison earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from UW-Eau Claire in 1977, and a Masters in Educational Administration from UW-Madison in 1993. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Educational Administration at UW-Madison.